

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 10992 131924Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 SS-15 EUR-12 SP-02 NEA-11 PA-01
ISO-00 IO-13 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /080 W
-----043228 140805Z /10 S

R 131517Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3531
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
MAMEMBASSY BONN 9650
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
UNINT HAVANA 019
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10992

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, US, SO, KE, SU, DJ
SUBJ: HORN POLICY UPDATE

REF: STATE 147850

1. WE USED TALKING POINTS PROVIDED REFTEL IN BREIFING MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE ON JUNE 13. RACHELE FOUND BRIEFING "VERY INTERESTING" AND IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTIONS SAID THAT ITALIANS STILL HAVE NO PLANS TO SUPPLY SOMALIA WITH ARMS. HORN REMAINS AREA OF INSTABILITY, AND PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI REITERATED ONLY LAST WEEK TO FOREIGN MINISTER JAMA BARRE (BRIEFLY IN ROME FOR ONE OF HIS FREQUENT STOPOVERS) THAT UNTIL SOME NEGOTIATIONS
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LOOKING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT ARE UNDERWAY BETWEEN ETHIOPIANS AND SOMALIS, ITALIANS WILL MAINTAIN POLICY OF NOT PROVIDING ARMS TO EITHER SIDE.

2. AS TO ERITREA, RACHELE SAID ITALAINS BELEIVE THAT MENGISTU IS INCREASINGLY ISOLATED FROM COUNTRIES UNTIL NOW SYMPATHETIC ON QUESTION OF MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ERITREA.

CUBANS SEEMS EVEN LESS INCLINED THAN BEFORE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES IN ERITREA, AND LIBYANS AND SOUTH YEMENIS HAVE BOTH MOVED AWAY FROM POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIANS. RECENT SPEECH BY MENGISTU IN WHICH HE SAID ERITREANS DID NOT REPRESENT LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND IN WHICH HE CALLED ON SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FOR HELP HAD RING OF REAL DESPERATION. IN FACT, MENGISTU HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY ATTACKING ARABS, RATHER THAN WEST, AND RECENT INCIDENTS, INCLUDING EXPULSION OF CUBAN AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA FOR INVOLVEMENT IN NEGEDE AFFAIR, INDICATE COOLING OF TIES WITH CUBA.HOLMES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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